



Water Quality NewsFlash

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Lahontan News:

Road Salt – The Lahontan Water Board is considering amending its sodium-related standards for the Carson and Walker River watersheds. The current “percent sodium” objectives will be replaced by objectives for Sodium Adsorption Ratio (SAR). SAR is a more modern criterion for irrigation purposes. The change will remove the need for TMDLs for two reaches of the West Fork Carson River. The new SAR standards are considered less restrictive than the current sodium standards but may impact road salting practices in the future. More information:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/docs/nascoping9_05.pdf

Infiltration impacts - South Lake Tahoe and the Public Utility District are studying large-scale stormwater infiltration ponds to assess impacts on groundwater quality. The \$750,000 study will look for metals and gasoline-related chemicals. Regulatory agencies consider the capture and infiltration of stormwater as one of the preferred control methods around Lake Tahoe, as well as elsewhere in the state. Groundwater impacts are a concern, however, especially for the larger infiltration facilities. <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/state/20051102-1055-ca-tahoewater.html>

EPA regulation of infiltration wells - U.S. EPA staff are concerned that some infiltration systems being constructed in the Lake Tahoe area may qualify as Class V wells. As such, the wells or other underground fluid distribution systems would need to comply with regulations developed under the Safe Drinking Water Act and its Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program. EPA Fact Sheet: http://www.epa.gov/safewater/uic/pdfs/fact_class5_stormwater.pdf Article: <http://www.tahodailytribune.com/article/20051102/NEWS/111020056>

SWAMP Workshop - The State Water Board’s Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) coordinates and helps implement consistent and scientifically defensible monitoring methods and strategies. The goal is to help answer the following questions:

1. What is the overall water quality?
2. To what extent is water quality changing over time?
3. What are the problem areas and areas needing protection?
4. What level of protection is needed?
5. How effective are clean water projects and programs?

An 18.5% premium added to municipal stormwater permit fees helps pay for SWAMP. The State Water Board is seeking public comment on SWAMP and on an external review that was recently completed. The workshop is December 9, 2005 - 10:00 a.m., at the Cal/EPA Headquarters Building. More information on SWAMP: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/swamp/index.html>

Pesticides – Water agencies collaborate on information website – “Our Water - Our World” is a consumer-oriented website with the goal of reducing pesticide loadings to waterways. The information was originally developed by two wastewater agencies and the project has received financial support from the Department of Pesticide Regulation, State Water Resources Control Board, and other water agencies. <http://www.ourwaterourworld.org/index.cfm>

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins.* Contact Betty Sanchez, Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, fkrieger@msn.com with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/publicat/newsflash/index.htm>